SHOPPERS DRUG MART
SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 21

The now, the next and the never of fashion

Metro unravels a month of style on the catwalks, from New York to Milan PAGE 22

VANCOUVER metro®

Thursday, March 15, 2012

News worth sharing.

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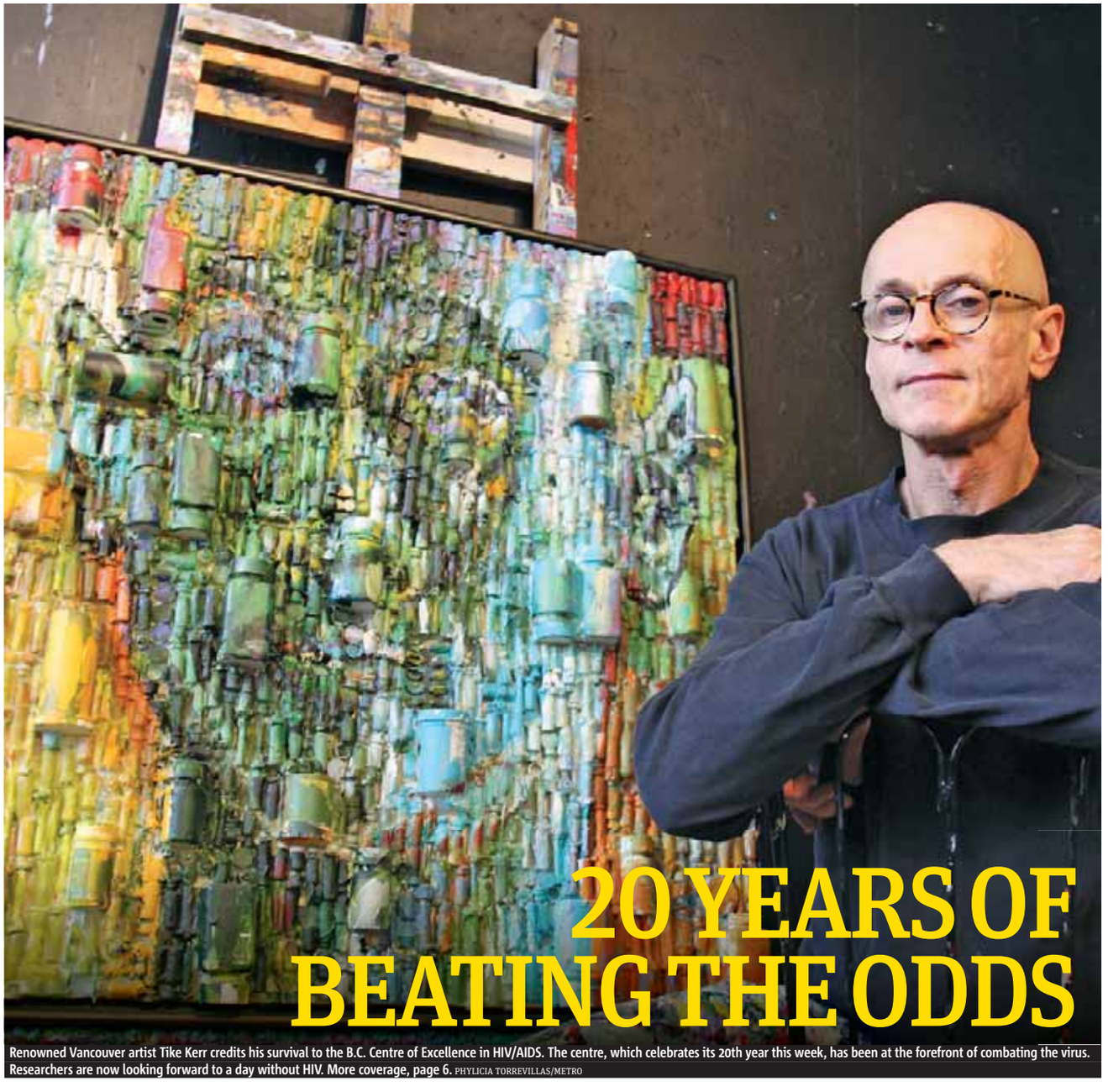

20 YEARS OF BEATING THE ODDS

Renowned Vancouver artist Tike Kerr credits his survival to the B.C. Centre of Excellence in HIV/AIDS. The centre, which celebrates its 20th year this week, has been at the forefront of combating the virus. Researchers are now looking forward to a day without HIV. More coverage, page 6. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Cat found frozen in ice

SPCA on the case after ice block was left atop Dawson Creek hydro box, says investigator

PAGE 3

Lab-grown meat: Just add stem cells

U.S. scientist's chicken looks, feels and tastes like the real thing

PAGE 8

Katy Perry could pocket millions for tell-all

Singer is reportedly being offered $3.1 million to dish on her divorce

PAGE 21

Strawberry mini-muffins a taste of summer to come

Bite-sized treats go perfectly with tea PAGE 28

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Government care

Watchdog to review child deaths

In the four months since Oct. 1, 39 children receiving government care have died, and 123 others were critically injured, according to a quarterly report released Wednesday by the B.C. Representative for Children and Youth (RCYBC).

Of the 39 deaths, nine are currently under review to identify any trends in care that could have contributed to the deaths. Two of these nine children died in government custody.

The quarterly numbers were typical for B.C., varying only slightly from those seen since March of last year, when the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) changed its reporting policies.

This change roughly tripled the number of critical injuries counted by the RCYBC.

Chief investigator John Greschner said Wednesday that this quarter's numbers were "not surprising" and that their office had seen recently "real improvements" in their relationship with the MCFD.

The MCFD agreed with Grescher in a statement Wednesday, saying that "the Representative for Children and Youth has indicated that she is pleased with how the ministry is reporting critical injuries."

This latest quarterly review comes just days after the release of an investigation report into the 2008 murders of Kaitlynne, Max and Cordon Schoenborn by their father.

GRAHAM TEMPLETON/ FOR METRO

North America

West Coast unites over plan for tsunami debris

As the massive field of lumber, refrigerators, fishing boats and other wreckage from last year's Japanese tsunami drifts across the Pacific Ocean, state and provincial governments along coastal North America are planning what to do when pieces of the devastation arrive on their shores.

The governments of British Columbia, Washington state, Oregon and California agreed this week to work together on a plan for tsunami debris, which experts believe could begin washing ashore in Canada and the United States later this year or in early 2013.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Protest. Cabbies rally against high costs of operating taxis

The Pacific Coast Co-op Taxi Association held a 150-strong rally Wednesday at Library Square to address what they claim are fundamental problems with the industry.

Currently, taxi companies apply for licences through the Passenger Transportation Board, a provincial regulatory body for chauffeured vehicles. Drivers want the right to purchase their own licences directly from city hall.

But deregulation has been attempted in other jurisdictions with negative effects, said Carolyn Bauer of the Vancouver Taxi Association.

"We have the accountability here. Every operator has to go through a criminal-record check in order to get their permits. That's not the case in other provinces," she said.

Taxi drivers protest on Wednesday. DANIEL PALMER/FOR METRO

DANIEL PALMER/FOR METRO

Waste of money? Transit police should be scrapped, CTF says

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) believes transit police are a waste of public money, citing an Edmonton-based report as proof of its inefficiency.

The report, published in May 2011, claims B.C. Transit Police officers are frustrated by a limited mandate and high executive turnover resulting in differing deployment philosophies.

"When you put fully trained police officers in a transit environment ... they realize fairly quickly that transit crime and disorder work is not that interesting for a police officer," noted the report.

Transit Police Chief Neil Dubord — who was deputy police chief in Edmonton at the time the report was commissioned — said the information is anecdotal and should not be used out of context.

"The report was never commissioned to be able to look at transit police," said Dubord, noting the 167-member police force issued 69,000 violation tickets and saw a 15 per cent reduction in crimes against property last year.

The report's author, Garry Meads, admitted B.C. has "a completely different transit model than any other jurisdiction," citing a transit system that stretches across 22 municipalities.

Jordan Bateman, CTF B.C. director, said TransLink could save millions by relying on municipal police forces instead of a dedicated service.

DANIEL PALMER/FOR METRO

BC SPCA investigate after cat found frozen

'Very sick'. Cat will need to be thawed before a necropsy can be performed

BC SPCA animal-cruelty investigators are looking into a disturbing case of a frozen cat that was found in Dawson Creek Tuesday.

"It's a very sick action. I have deep concerns about the stability of anyone who would do this," said Marcie Moriarty, BC SPCA animal-cruelty investigator.

The cat was found frozen in a block of ice and deliberately placed atop a BC Hydro box in the Mile Zero Trailer Park at noon.

"The ice block, which has the markings of rubber bin, was left just a stone-throw away from where we found the corpse of a frozen dog, in a very similar position and in a Tupperware-like container in January last year," said Moriarty.

"The first time we weren't able to get any significant leads. No one was able to identify the dog, and there was no ID. We're hoping someone will step forward this time."

Before a necropsy can be conducted the cat must thawed. However, investigators believe there is blood frozen in the ice block.

Other than the case of the frozen dog, "in my seven years, I haven't come across a case like this," said Moriarty. "The way that it was dropped off, this wasn't an accident, it wasn't a deliberate act."

SPCA have now discovered two animals deliberately frozen in blocks of ice in the same area of Dawson Creek. COURTESY OF BC SPCA

KYLA JONAS/FOR METRO

Identified

DJ's remains found in Whistler

Human remains found in the wooded area of a Whistler subdivision on Sunday have been identified as that of a man who was reported missing in January.

Whistler RCMP say there is no sign of foul play in the death of Mike Grefner, a DJ, but police will continue to investigate the circumstances that led to his death.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fatal move

Man charged in car-surfing incident

A 26-year-old Saskatchewan man has been charged in a fatal car-surfing incident last summer in Kelowna. The Crown has approved a charge of criminal negligence causing death against Christopher Bezaire. Police say 24-year-old Jody Rud fell from the roof of a moving car that Bezaire drove June 11. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Welfare recipients

Relocation plan not studied well, official says

The B.C. government's idea of training and relocating welfare recipients to the province's north and Interior has included little study.

That's according to Environment Minister Terry Lake, who's not sure how many people will actually take the government up on the offer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Glacier National Park

Avalanche closes Trans-Canada Highway

An avalanche forced the closure of the Trans-Canada Highway in both directions from Revelstoke to Golden in eastern B.C. Wednesday.

The slide came down last night in Glacier National Park near the Rogers Pass Summit.

No one was reported hurt.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

1 NEWS

Mobile news

Tube riders in London are getting wired in time for the Olympics with free Wi-Fi in the underground subway system during the games. Scan (if you're not underground) for the full story.

On the web

Funny talk after 9-11

Arab-Muslim standup comedy is flourishing more than a decade after 9-11, and the comedian who gained notoriety on the "Axis of Evil Comedy Tour" makes it clear he's trying to do more than just lampoon himself or his people for easy laughs. Watch at metronews.ca/video

Newcomers. Urban rental spaces insufficient for immigrants: Report

New Canadians are struggling to plant their roots in Canadian soil, says new study.

Out of the 600 immigrants and refugees using settlement services in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal, nearly half of participants reported living in dwellings that are overcrowded, have inadequate plumbing, insect infestations or problems with mould and improper heating, according to a UBC study released Wednesday.

"It's just one study of many that is going to be saying the same thing: we as a society have really underinvested in affordable rental housing," said Daniel Hiebert, UBC geography professor.

"We looked at the difficulties that all of us in Vancouver face when entering the housing market, and how those problems are amplified for people who are newcomers to Canada."

The incomes of study participants are significantly below the national average, giving them fewer housing options.

Most reported spending more than 50 per cent of their income on housing, while 15 per cent of respondents said they are allotting more than 75 per cent of their income towards paying rent.

Hiebert added that many newcomers also face discrimination in the housing market and suffer problems finding employment even with adequate qualifications.

"As a society, we want immigrants to integrate, to be part of what Canada is and that's a really challenging process when you can't even find housing."

KYLA JONAS/FOR METRO

Environment. City hosts green eye candy from around the Globe

When environmentalists and big industry both show up to the same event, there must be something significant going on.

This week, the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre hosts corporations, national delegates and independent inventors from more than 50 countries for the Globe Business and Environment Conference.

Each exhibitor came out to show off their latest green innovations and strategies Wednesday, and to catch a peek at what's upcoming from their colleagues — and their competitors.

Low-carbon fuels and power sources are a theme of the show, from new German windmill designs, to new Chinese engines, to new Canadian sources of natural gas.

Premier Christy Clark gave the trade show's opening address.

"For British Columbia, (green technology) means long-term, high-paying jobs in a sector that continues to grow year over year," she said Wednesday.

The theme of green technology's economic viability was prominent in the conference agenda, with a specific focus on the Chinese market for green technology, which the B.C. government expects to grow to $1 trillion by 2013.

GRAHAM TEMPLETON/FOR METRO

When and where?

The Globe Business and Environment Conference continues at Canada Place to March 17.

No anniversary gifts from opposition for Clark's first year

Politics. Critics weigh in on Christy Clark's premiership so far

Premier Christy Clark's first year in office lacked focus and saw her continually shift her priorities, said opposition parties on the anniversary of her swearing-in ceremony.

"I think it's been a pretty disappointing year. When she was elected, the premier promised a different style of office. But clearly it's been more of the same from the Campbell regime," said NDP caucus chair Shane Simpson.

Simpson said Clark has been "bouncing from issue to issue," first focusing on families, then a jobs plan and currently touting fiscal prudence as her top agenda.

"We need to shrink the list of things that we do down to the core issues and have substantive plans on how to move forward," Simpson said.

Conservative Leader John Cummins agrees that Clark's inaugural year has lacked vision and direction.

"She's trying to pass herself off as Conservative in nature, and currently she's anything but. Taxes keep going up," said Cummins.

Cummins said the government is mishandling the ongoing teachers dispute and lacked transparency after the sponsorship of BC Place fell through with Telus.

"They walked away from $35 million and they can't get their story straight on why they did it. And this is a government that has had trouble telling the truth in the past," Cummins said.

The latest Ipsos Reid polling data suggests the NDP have 44 per cent of the vote, followed by the Liberals (32 per cent) and the B.C. Conservatives (16 per cent).

On Tuesday, Clark announced her government had helped create nearly 40,000 new jobs in six months, a figure disputed by NDP finance critic Bruce Ralston, who said the real figure was closer to 2,000 when seasonally adjusted.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. Premier Christy Clark has been running with the ball for a year now.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO FILE

Globe trotting

Metro had a chance to walk around the Globe conference Wednesday. Here's some of the green technology on display at this year's show.

1 The Achiever. Bike turns your pedal power into electricity

It can run at five selectable power levels, and has no battery to replace.

2 Modern mock-up. Home's energy footprint is very tiny

Environmentally friendly house makes use of natural light and strong insulation.

3 A SICK contraption. Making manufacturing more efficient

It's installed in smoke stacks to help measure and report the volumes of different gasses being released.

4 Work-in-progress. Trapping salt that affects irrigation processes

It will turn brackish water, unusable due to its high salt content, into an agriculturally useful substance.

5 Design innovation. Helping to make wind power more viable

This display allows attendees to direct an air pump at different windmill designs. GRAHAM TEMPLETON/FOR METRO

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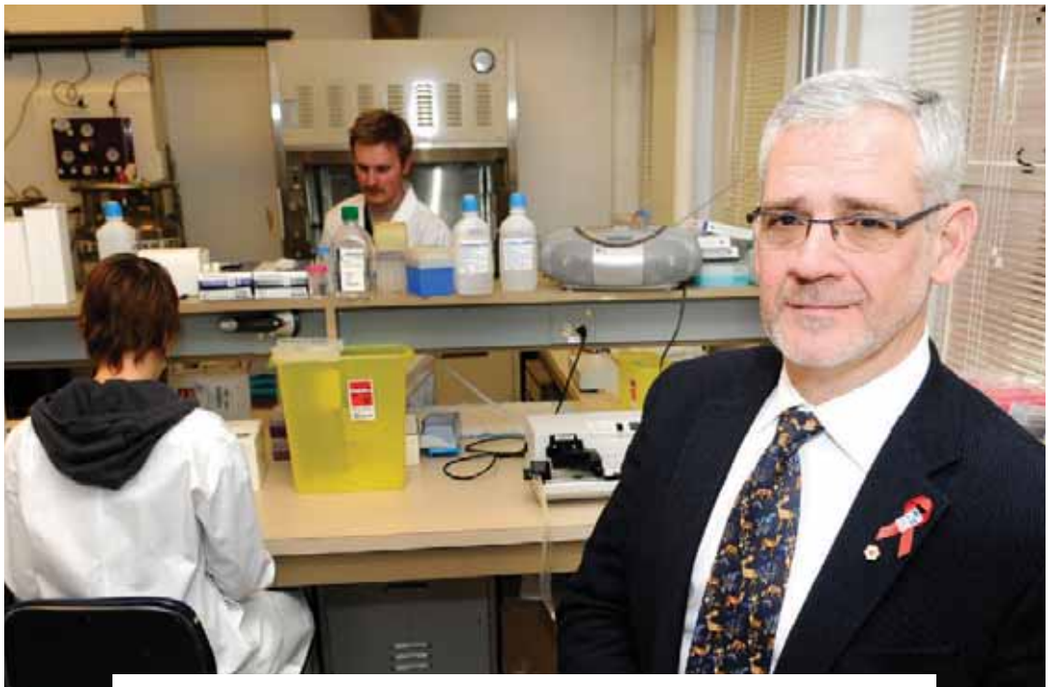

HIV AND AIDS: THEN AND NOW

World-renowned researcher Dr. Julio Montaner, clinical director of the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, is confident an AIDS-free generation is possible. The centre is celebrating its 20th year this week.

DARK DAYS ARE OVER: MONTANER

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
phylicia.torrevillas@metronews.ca

Canada's leading AIDS research centre is marking 20 years of pioneering lifesaving breakthroughs as it changes the face of HIV and AIDS in B.C. and the rest of the world.

Dr. Julio Montaner, director of the B.C. Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS (BC-CfE) at St. Paul's Hospital, says the centre has been at the forefront in revolutionizing the management of the disease since it opened March 16, 1992.

The state of HIV-AIDS treatment and research in the province today is a far cry from the dark and difficult days of late 1980s and early 1990s, he says.

"While St. Paul's took steps to help these people out, the rest of the healthcare community was a bit unwilling to commit to these kinds of services," Montaner says. "The stigma our patients felt in those days was quite palpable."

But B.C. has come a long way.

It is now the only province showing a steady decline in the rate of new HIV diagnoses because of expanded access to treatment.

Montaner, who has helped catapult Canada as a world leader in the fight against HIV-AIDS, says he's now convinced a generation free of the deadly disease is completely within reach.

He says he is gratified by the worldwide attention given to the centre's Treatment as Prevention strategy, which recommends universal testing and expanded access to highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) as a tool against the spread of the incurable virus.

"When we came out of the gate with the data to support this strategy in 2005, the initial reaction was skepticism.… There was a lot of reluctancy to embrace it," Montaner says.

The strategy has since been recognized as one of the top 10 medical breakthroughs by Time magazine and named the medical breakthrough for 2012 by Reader's Digest.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton also endorsed the strategy as a cornerstone approach in the global fight against the disease.

Despite the international recognition, Montaner expressed his frustration with the federal government's lack of support for the program.

"I continue to hit my head against the wall that separates B.C. and Ottawa because, unfortunately, Stephen Harper and his administration have been continuously reluctant to engage in any discussions that have anything to do with HIV," he says. "This is short-sided, negligent and costing lives across this country."

But Montaner says that he and his team won't back down.

"It's not going to stop us from doing what is right and from showing the rest of the world and the rest of the country that HIV can be contained. And we will do so."

The centre is holding an anniversary gala Friday to celebrate 20 years of success.

Timeline

Highlights over the years:

- **1992.** The B.C. Centre in Excellence for HIV/AIDS began operating out of St. Paul's Hospital March 16, 1992.
- **Therapy.** Since 1996, highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) has resulted in annual reduction of AIDS-related diseases and deaths by over 90 per cent.
- **China.** In early 2011, China implemented a national HIV-AIDS policy based on the centre's Treatment as Prevention strategy. The made-in-Vancouver strategy was also named 2011 breakthrough of the year by Science Magazine.

Thankful. Centre saved renowned artist's life

Vancouver artist Tiko Kerr says he's lucky and thankful to be alive.

Kerr tested positive for HIV in Sydney, Australia, in 1985 when he was 32 years old.

"My doctor told me to go home and put my estate in order," he said. "And I did."

When he got back, he was surprised to learn the fate of his friends who were living with the deadly disease.

"Everyone was dropping like flies," he said. "All my friends from that generation are dead now."

With the advancements in HIV-AIDS treatment, Kerr said he's "totally fine and healthy" now at 58.

"I've been given my life back," he added. "I don't have side effects from the pills, which was a huge problem for many years. I literally feel like I'm 25 years old again."

He says he's lucky to be living in B.C. and to have the best medical team on his side.

"I plant full responsibility on Julio (Montaner) and his team at (the B.C. Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS)," said Kerr, adding they were the real reason he survived as long as he has.

Gift of life

"There's no greater gift than to be given back one's life."

Vancouver artist Tiko Kerr

"I couldn't be in better hands," he said. "(Montaner) is my champion. He was the one who championed the effort to get the new medications from Health Canada for myself and 500 other men."

Kerr has been turning all the medical paraphernalia such as pill bottles and syringes he's accumulated over the years from his treatments into art. He says he used his art as an outlet to vent out his anger, frustration and fear.

But now he's excited for a future without the deadly disease.

"I live in hope," he said. "Miracles have totally changed the situation."

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Vancouver artist Tiko Kerr, who has been living with HIV for more than two decades, stands beside an artwork made from syringes he accumulated from his medical treatments over the years. PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

Reducing infection

Taking treatment across Canada

While B.C. leads the country in reducing the spread of HIV, other provinces are lagging behind.

Saskatchewan has twice the national average of new infections — but help is on the way.

Providence Health Care announced Wednesday it is sending a team of nurses to the province to help curb the virus, using the proven treatment and prevention methods already used in B.C. METRO

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A juicy chicken filet — made in Prof. Fu-hung Hsieh's laboratory.
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Lab-grown meat looks, feels, tastes like chicken

Food revolution. Biological engineers have succeeded in creating edible meat from stem cells

ELISABETH BRAW
Metro World News

"Let there be animals," said God, and He created chickens, cattle and fish. Actually, it's not God. It's Fu-hung Hsieh, professor of biological engineering at the University of Missouri.

Hsieh makes chicken. That's right: He creates chicken out of nothing — tasty filets that look, feel and taste like the real bird.

"Laboratory-grown meat needs to mimic the appearance and bite of natural meat," said Hsieh. "In the past, researchers haven't been able to recreate the appearance, so consumers wouldn't eat the artificial meat."

But even foodies would have a hard time telling natural chicken apart from Hsieh's new chicken. It's now being produced for use in restaurants.

Biological engineers in several countries have recently succeeded in creating edible meat that looks appealing. Earlier this year a Dutch researcher created the world's first laboratory-grown edible hamburger.

"We've made big steps in creating laboratory-grown meat, but the result isn't something I'd eat at this moment," said Dr. Daisy van der Schaft, a biomedical engineer at Eindhoven University in the Netherlands.

How it works:

1. To create an artificial hamburger, steak or chicken breast, scientists take stem cells from animals and grow them into a 3-D shape.
2. Then they grow the cells into muscle cells. The cultivated muscle cells "bulk up" into solid muscle bundles.
3. The scientists then create chain ducts, similar to blood veins. "The easiest meat to create is sausage," explains van der Schaft. "It doesn't have to look attractive like a steak."

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TESTIMONIAL - *Excellent!* "I tried this because I was feeling sluggish with achy muscles, I now have more energy then I have had in a long time. Excellent product! I will likely try the 30 day CleanseSMART cleanse when I have the time but for a quick feel good solution this is the answer." - 2009-09-15

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Gender wars

Some Alberta men say it's OK to hit a woman: Poll

Almost one in 10 Alberta men believes hitting a woman is OK if she makes them angry, says a recent poll.

The Leger Marketing survey also found 40 per cent of the men say women who dress provocatively risk being raped

According to a report released by Statistics Canada in 2011, Alberta and Saskatchewan have the highest rates of spousal abuse in the country.

The survey of 1,000 Alberta men over 18 also found 14 per cent of those polled agreed that women often say "no" when they mean "yes."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Stricter sentencing

Conservatives get tougher on elder abuse

The federal government is set to introduce tougher sentences for those convicted of elder abuse.

The Canadian Press has learned that Justice Minister Rob Nicholson and seniors minister Alice Wong are to announce amendments to the Criminal Code on Thursday in Toronto.

Stiffer sentencing provisions were among the Conservatives' promises during the last election, and were also mentioned in last year's speech from the throne. Research seniors' advocates suggests that almost one of every 10 older Canadians experiences some form of abuse. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Politics

Ex-staffer puts panel on hold

Ex-Liberal party staffer Adam Carroll, who quit after claims he posted Public Safety Minister Vic Toews divorce details online, is putting off an appearance before a Commons panel — he's ill.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec

PQ is choking on halal meat

The Parti Québécois is sounding the alarm over an Islamic food ritual, calling slaughter for halal meat an affront not only to the rights of animals but to values cherished by Quebecers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. guards molested us, women say

Legal action. Female officials left three Canadian travellers traumatized at the border, court documents claim

Lawyer's case

"These women were sexually molested at the border and there's no excuse for that."

Thomas Wienner, a U.S. lawyer who is representing the women

Three Canadian women have launched legal action alleging they were molested by female U.S. border guards while attempting to cross the border near Windsor, Ont.

Leslie Ingratta of Windsor alleges two customs and border protection officers took her to a holding cell for questioning when she attempted to cross the Detroit-Windsor tunnel on Jan. 30, 2011, for a shopping trip to the U.S.

The lawsuit alleges officials questioned Ingratta repeatedly and accused her of lying about her reasons for travelling before ordering her to face a wall.

With her arms and legs spread, the officials conducted a search that included putting their hands under her bra and fondling her breasts, as well as grabbing her buttocks and rubbing her genitals, the suit alleges.

She was then taken back to the waiting room, crying and shaking, and told she was "clear to enter the United States."

"By this point, plaintiff was too traumatized to continue on her trip and returned to Canada," court documents say.

In a second, joint lawsuit two women from Windsor and Milton, Ont., claim they were strip-searched in an inappropriate manner while travelling together across the Ambassador Bridge on March 5, 2010 to attend a music concert.

They allege the guards put their fingers into their anuses and vaginas, and fondled each of their bare breasts "in a prolonged, deliberate manner."

Thomas Wienner, a Rochester, Mich.-based lawyer, who represents all three women, said he believes there could be more victims and is encouraging them to come forward.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Temperatures soar in the 'Peg

A golfer drives a ball Wednesday at Winnipeg's Shooters Golf Course, which opened its driving range in response to the weather usually reserved for late spring, not late winter. The Prairies are currently experiencing a heat wave, with Winnipeg seeing temperatures in the low teens with 22 C forecast for Friday. The city's normal temperatures for this time of year is below 0 C. COURTESY OF CHRISD.CA

Surgery

Drug shortage putting pressure on hospitals

A drug shortage is worrying anesthesiologists across the country.

They fear they won't have enough drugs for surgery or sedatives and painkillers.

Sandoz Canada cut production of more than 100 medications after U.S. concerns about quality. A fire also affected a plant.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dominica

Quebecer on cruise ship dies after snorkelling

A Canadian tourist has died after a snorkelling outing from a cruise ship, say police on the Caribbean island of Dominica.

Yvette Prince, 61, was with friends when she collapsed. She was declared dead at a hospital.

Prince, from Quebec, was a passenger on the Norwegian Dawn.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Murder trial. Rafferty thought Tori, 8, was too old, McClintic testifies

Eight-year-old Victoria Stafford's killer continued her shocking testimony Wednesday — with a disturbing revelation about her accused boyfriend and the little girl's age.

Terri-Lynne McClintic testified Michael Rafferty — who she alleged Tuesday had raped the little girl — thought Tori was too old.

After she abducted Tori outside a Woodstock, Ont., school, McClintic said, she brought her back to Rafferty's car. He got upset about her choice of a child, she told the court in London, Ont.

"He made a comment that she wasn't young enough," she said.

They drove off with Tori anyway, said McClintic, 21, and the girl kept asking if she could go home, promising not to tell on them.

McClintic is serving life after pleading guilty to first-degree murder in Tori's death. Rafferty has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder, sexual assault causing bodily harm and kidnapping.

Michael Rafferty is seen Wednesday in London, Ont. THE CANADIAN PRESS

McClintic also testifed she told Rafferty she would "take the fall" for him.

She further told him, "he had a life, a job, things going for him and I was just, I really had nothing," the court was told.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Answer, please. Feds stalling on what military name change cost us

How much did it cost Canadian taxpayers to rechristen the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Royal Canadian Navy?

Well, an access-to-information request to get answers cost $5.

And the value of the move, in the words of Defence Minister Peter MacKay: "Priceless."

But even so, seven months after Ottawa announced plans to change the names of the military's air and maritime divisions, the Defence Department says it still needs more time before it can reveal how much public money has been spent on the move.

Last September, in response to an access-to-information request, the department said it would need 130 additional days to respond.

The department now says it must consult with the Privy Council Office, the bureaucratic arm of the Prime Minister's Office, about possible cabinet-confidentiality issues before disclosing how much it has cost to add the royal moniker.

The department says it is still awaiting a response from the Privy Council on the matter.

During the announcement in August, MacKay was asked repeatedly to explain how much the name change would cost.

"You can put a price on it if you like," MacKay said at the time. "To me, it's priceless."

NDP defence critic David Christopherson says the public has the right to know the costs of a taxpayer-funded initiative to change the military's name.

"If we can't even get this kind of simple information out of the Conservative government, we are royally screwed," he said Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Switzerland tour bus crash kills dozens

Death. Some 200 rescuers called to scene of accident after bus slams into concrete wall

A woman and child light a candle during a mass held to commemorate the victims of a deadly bus crash in Switzerland, at the Saint-Peters church in Leuven, Belgium, Wednesday. YVES LOGGHE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A tourist bus slammed head-on into a concrete wall in a Swiss Alps tunnel, killing 28 people, mostly children returning from a ski vacation. Swiss police said Wednesday the vehicle was not speeding and everyone was wearing seat belts.

The bus was carrying students about age 12 from two different Belgian schools when it crashed shortly after 9 p.m. Tuesday night on a highway near the southern town of Sierre, Switzerland.

The horrific accident in the short Tunnel de Geronde left the front of the bus mangled, trapping people inside. Twenty-two school children and six adults including the driver were killed and another 24 children were hospitalized in what the police chief described as a "scene like a war."

Belgium flew anxious parents and relatives to the site and called for a day of mourning.

Authorities were still trying to work out how a modern bus, a rested driver and a safe tunnel could add up to such a tragedy.

A Swiss prosecutor said video cameras in the tunnel captured the accident. Olivier Elsig, prosecutor for the canton of Valais, told reporters the children on the bus were wearing seat belts, no other vehicle was involved and it was not speeding.

Speaking at a news conference Wednesday in Sion, the capital of Valais, he said investigators were looking at three possible causes for the crash — a technical problem with the bus, a health problem with the driver, or human error.

He said the seatbelts wouldn't have helped much due to the severity of the crash and an autopsy will be performed on the driver. "We will examine everything to find out what happened," Elsig promised.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Earthquake. Japan hit by tremors days after tsunami anniversary

Residents flee to safety after a tsunami warning was issued following an earthquake in Ofunatp, Iwate prefecture, Japan. IWATE NIPPO VIA KYODO NEWS /THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A series of earthquakes rattled Tokyo and northeastern Japan on Wednesday evening but caused no apparent damage or injury in the same region hit by last year's devastating tsunami.

The strongest was a magnitude-6.8 that struck off Hokkaido island and generated a small tsunami. Some communities along the northern Pacific coast advised residents to evacuate coastal homes.

A swelling of 20 centimetres was observed in water at the port of Hachinohe in Aomori about an hour after the tremor, with smaller changes seen elsewhere. The Meteorological Agency lifted all tsunami advisories within about 90 minutes.

About 9 p.m. local time, a magnitude-6.1 quake shook buildings in the capital. It was centred just off the coast of Chiba, east of Tokyo, at a rather shallow 15 kilometres deep.

Narita International Airport briefly closed runways for inspection but later resumed operation. Several local train services were suspended for safety checks.

There were no abnormalities reported at nuclear power plants after the two earthquakes, operators said. Nearly all of Japan's nuclear plants are offline for safety inspections.

This past Sunday, Japan marked the first anniversary of the massive magnitude-9.0 earthquake and tsunami that left some 19,000 people dead or missing, wreaked widespread damage along the northeastern coast and triggered the worst nuclear accident since Chornobyl.

Rebuilding has yet to fully begin in many coastal communities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Activists outraged over suicide of girl forced to marry her rapist

The case of a 16-year-old girl who killed herself after she was forced to marry her rapist has spurred outrage among Morocco's Internet activists and ignited calls for changes to the country's laws.

An online petition, a Facebook page and countless tweets expressed horror over the suicide of Amina Filali, who swallowed rat poison on Saturday to protest her marriage to the man who raped her a year earlier.

Article 475 of the Moroccan penal code allows for the "kidnapper" of a minor to marry his victim to escape prosecution, and it has been used to justify a traditional practice of making a rapist marry his victim to preserve the honour of the woman's family.

Abdelaziz Nouaydi, who runs the Adala Association for legal reform, said a judge can recommend marriage only in the case of agreement by the victim and both families.

"It is not something that happens a great deal — it is very rare," he said, but admitted that the family of the victim sometimes agrees out of fear that she won't be able to find a husband if it is known she was raped.

The marriage is then pushed on the victim by the families to avoid scandal, said Fouzia Assouli, president of Democratic League for Women's Rights.

In many societies, the loss of a woman's virginity outside of wedlock is a huge stain of honour on the family.

In many parts of the Middle East, there is a tradition whereby a rapist can escape prosecution if he marries his victim, thereby restoring her honour. There is a similar injunction in the Old Testament's Book of Deuteronomy

Morocco updated its family code in 2004 in a landmark improvement of the situation of women, but activists say there's still need for improvement.

In cases of rape, the burden of proof is often on the victim and if she can't prove she was attacked, a woman risks being prosecuted for debauchery.

"In Morocco, the law protects public morality but not the individual," said Assouli, adding that legislation outlawing all forms of violence against women, including rape within marriage, has been stuck in the government since 2006.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Response

"Amina, 16, was triply violated, by her rapist, by tradition and by Article 475 of the Moroccan law."

Activist Abadila Maaelaynine, in a tweet

Deep sea recovery mission

Rescue workers and divers in Bangladesh on Wednesday pulled scores of bodies from the wreckage of a ferry that sank after being hit by an oil barge, as the death toll rose to 112. The packed Shariatpur 1 vessel, carrying about 200 passengers, capsized in the early hours of Tuesday morning after a collision with the barge in the Meghna river, 40 kilometres southeast of the capital Dhaka. STRDEL/GETTY IMAGES

Walking on water

Jesus ad stokes controversy

Energy-drink maker Red Bull said Wednesday it has dropped an advertisement in South Africa after an outcry from both Christians and Muslims for its portrayal of Jesus Christ.

The television cartoon implies Jesus walked on water because he had been invigorated by a miraculous energy drink and knew where there were hidden rocks to tread on.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Punks vs. Putin

Punk singers to remain in jail

A Russian court ordered two female punk rockers to remain in jail Wednesday for praying to the Virgin Mary to deliver the nation from Vladimir Putin at a surprise show.

Members of the band Pussy Riot briefly seized the pulpit of Moscow's Christ the Savior Cathedral in late February to chant "Mother Mary, drive Putin away."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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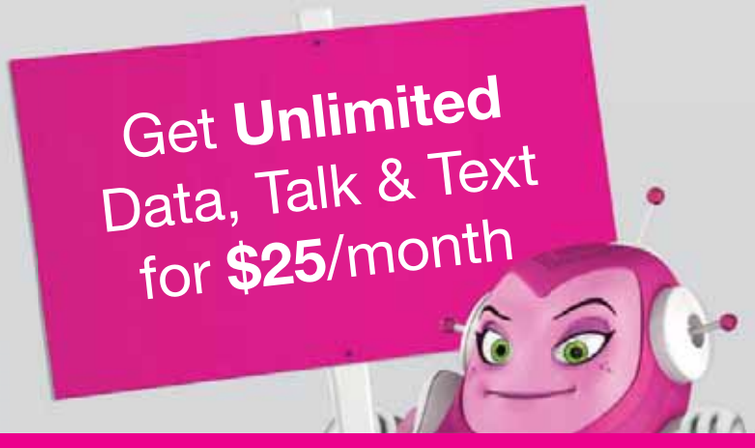

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Occupy protesters allowed to stay

Occupy New Haven activists Jillian Tupper, left, and Bernadette DeLuca react to news they don't have to vacate their camp on the Green in New Haven, Conn., Wednesday. A federal judge in Bridgeport granted an injunction that will allow protesters to stay until March 28 while they fight the city's order to leave.

JESSICA HILL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Proposed bill targets Viagra

Men's health. A U.S. senator has put forth a bill that would require men to undergo a medical exam before being prescribed drug

An Ohio state senator says she only wants to look out for men's health — the way men look out for women's — by introducing a bill that would require Viagra users to first get medical exams and affidavits of impotency from their partners.

"This isn't about restricting it," Democrat Nina Turner explained to the Toronto Star on Wednesday. "We are purely looking out for men's health and their well-being so they fully understand their options."

By men, she particularly means the conservatives behind the sudden uproar about birth control and abortion in the United States.

"It is crucial that we take the appropriate steps to shelter vulnerable men from the potential side effects of these drugs," said the Cleveland Democrat.

"I see birth control, abortion and Viagra as all part of reproductive health."

Bill 307 would require a man who wanted a prescription for erectile dysfunction to "have a long conversation with a sexual therapist to determine whether or not this is physical or mental," said Turner.

Republican state legislators have used options and risks as their rationale for restricting access to birth control and abortion.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Looking out for men?

"The men in our lives generously devote time to fundamental female reproductive issues — the least we can do is return the favour."

U.S. Sen. Nina Turner

Bill 307 would restrict access to Viagra. TOBY TALBOT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Backlash. Iowa principal resigns after anti-gay, anti-abortion assembly

The principal of an Iowa secondary school that allowed members of a Christian rock band to espouse their anti-gay, anti-abortion views while showing students images of fetuses that had apparently been aborted, is resigning.

Mike Cooper, who oversees grades 7-12 at the school in Dunkerton, will tender his resignation Monday and remain on the job through the end of the school year, Dunkerton Superintendent Jim Stanton told the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier for a story published Tuesday.

He said the decision is not related to Cooper's recommendation that the district invite the band Junkyard Prophet to perform at last week's assembly. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Preaching hate

"They told my daughter, the girls, that they were going to have mud on their wedding dresses if they weren't virgins."

Jennifer Littlefield, parent

Verdict. Jurors side with parents in Virginia Tech wrongful-death lawsuit

A jury on Wednesday found Virginia Tech negligent for waiting to warn students about a gunman during a 2007 campus massacre that left 33 dead.

Jurors deliberated for just three and a half hours before siding with the parents of two students who were killed on April 16, 2007, in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

Their wrongful-death civil lawsuit argued that lives could have been spared if school officials had moved more quickly to alert the campus after the first two victims were shot in a dormitory.

The massacre ended later in the morning with the deaths 31 more people, including the gunman, at a classroom building.

The state was the lone defendant in the case, and it argued that the university did all it could with the information available at the time.

President Charles W. Steger and other university officials have said they initially believed the first two shootings were isolated instances of domestic violence.

One of the state's attorneys, Peter R. Messitt, said before the verdict that Tech officials could not be expected to anticipate the killing spree, calling the slaughter unprecedented "in the history of higher education" and "one of the most horrible days in America."

During the trial, the attorneys for the Prydes and Petersons portrayed campus police as leaping to the conclusion that the first two victims were shot by a jealous boyfriend, and that the gunman was not a threat to others.

They presented evidence that campus leaders waited over two hours before sending a campus-wide warning that a "shooting incident" had occurred. It did not say a gunman was still at large.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Award

- **The jury awarded $4 million each to the families of Erin Peterson and Julia Pryde.** The state immediately filed a motion to reduce the award. State law requires the award to be capped at $100,000, but jurors weren't told of the cap.

Celeste Peterson cries after a verdict on Wednesday in Christiansburg, Va. Jurors deliberated for three and a half hours before siding with the parents of two students who were killed on April 16, 2007, at Virginia Tech in the most deadly mass shooting in modern U.S. history. SAM DEAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Northern boom

North set for future growth

The Conference Board says a global commodities boom is igniting a fire under Canada's three northern territories.

Real gross domestic product growth will collectively top seven per cent in both 2012 and 2013, more than three times the national average.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Car coup

Vehicle sales up across Canada

Statistics Canada reported a 15.4 per cent rise in vehicles sold in January to 153,623 units from 133,146 units sold in December.

The data indicates sales rose at the fastest pace in more than 15 years in January, economist Robert Kavcic said Wednesday in a report by BMO Economics.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Car sales hit 15-year high in January. SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

Succession plan

Investors seek Berkshire disclosure

A group of Berkshire Hathaway investors from the AFL-CIO wants to require the company to reveal Warren Buffett's successor.

The union wants to require the company to disclose a written succession plan that includes the criteria for the next chief executive.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Telecoms' foreign investment limits lifted

Ottawa moved Wednesday to level the wireless playing field by placing limits on the coming wireless spectrum auction and lifting foreign-investment limits on small telecom firms in an effort to boost competition.

Industry Minister Christian Paradis says the new measures will allow new wireless carriers into the market and foster greater competition in the telecom industry after the auction expected next year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Members of the Renaud family play on their wireless devices as Minister of Industry Christian Paradis makes an announcement in Russell, Ont., on Wednesday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Wall Street. Goldman Sachs exec resigns with scathing NYT op-ed

An executive director at investment giant Goldman Sachs resigned Wednesday by way of a scathing op-ed in the New York Times, decrying a work environment he described as "toxic and destructive" and where employees systematically try to come up with ways to fleece their clients.

Greg Smith's editorial firebomb is certain to renew debate in the United States about how much Wall Street has truly changed following the widespread financial meltdown four years ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Goldman Sachs' headquarters in N.Y.C. RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Murdoch: 'I never misled Parliament'

News Corp. executive James Murdoch acknowledged Wednesday that he could have done more to get to grips with the phone hacking scandal that has rocked Britain.

Murdoch's admission came in a seven-page letter written to British parliamentarians investigating the scandal. In it, he repeated his insistence that he didn't know the extent of the illegal behaviour at his now-defunct News of the World tabloid newspaper, saying that the details had been hidden from him by members of his staff.

"It would have been better if I had asked more questions," Murdoch told the House of Commons' media committee. "However the truth is that incomplete answers and what now appear to be false assurances were given to the questions that I asked."

Murdoch has already appeared twice before lawmakers, who grilled him about what he knew about the scandal.

Murdoch was the one who signed off on a substantial settlement to one of the first known victims of the practice. The company's former in-house lawyer said the payoff was aimed at keeping a lid on the scandal, but Murdoch says he had no knowledge of wider wrongdoing.

In his letter, Murdoch accused his former lieutenants of working behind his back. "I have not misled Parliament," he said. "I did not know about, nor did I try to hide, wrongdoing."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More could have been done

"It would have been better if I asked more questions."

James Murdoch, News Corp. executive

James Murdoch THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Strike stopped

Feds thwart Air Canada work stoppage

Air Canada union workers continued to protest outside government offices in Ottawa, Wednesday, after federal politicians imposed an arbitration order that forces the airline to keep flying.

Bill C-33, which passed 155-124 on Wednesday, covers 8,600 mechanics, baggage handlers and other ground crew at Air Canada, and 3,000 pilots.

Labour Minister Lisa Raitt had proposed the back-to-work legislation on Monday, saying a work stoppage at Air Canada was something the country could not afford. The government had invoked closure on Tuesday afternoon, setting up the final vote in the House of Commons.

But the union representing the mechanics and other workers said Tuesday that the decision to impose arbitration on its talks with the airline eroded labour rights.

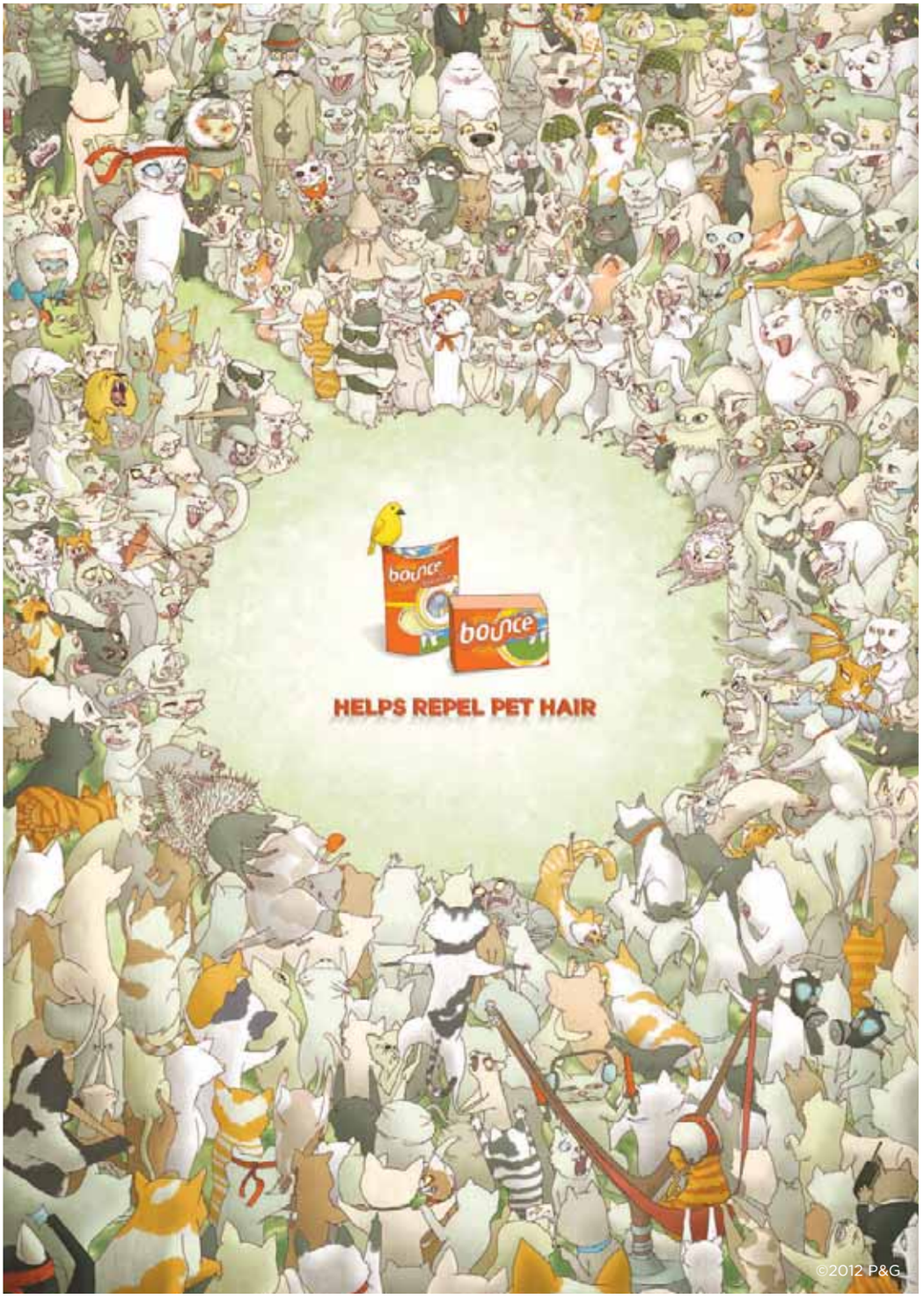
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers executive Dave Ritchie said the bill would "poison labour relations across Canada."

The bill now goes to the Senate, where the Conservatives are expected to use their majority for speedy passage. The legislation could receive royal assent before the end of the week.

Air Canada flights were set to stop this week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Air Canada union workers protest outside government offices in Ottawa on Wednesday. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS



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PUTTING THE CLUB BACK IN SEAL CLUBBING

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Ke$ha, the face of the seal protest.
GETTY IMAGES

As "pop" "super" "star" Ke$ha throws her weight (90 pounds) behind the fight against the Atlantic Canadian seal hunt, the question must be asked: Who spoke for the seals before pop culture sucked?

Every year there's some sort-of celebrity who clubs us over the head with the message that Newfoundlanders and Maritimers are barbarians for taking part in a tightly controlled hunt of sea mammals (horrors!).

There's been Pamela Anderson, MacGyver, an America's Top Model host, and generally just a cavalcade of Z-listers who need something to do now that there's no such thing as Hollywood Squares.

What the $#%!

And this year there's Ke$ha, trying to $ave the $eals, despite an apparent shortage of funds which keeps her from replacing the S on her keyboard.

You can make an argument that Paul McCartney has been the exception, but a) he spoke out because of his wife/master Heather Mills (who could pay the sealers' wages with her alimony) and b) McCartney wrote Simply Having a Wonderful Christmastime, which is the sonic equivalent of a seal being strangled.

And this year there's Ke$ha trying to $ave the $eals despite an apparent shortage of funds that keeps her from replacing the S on her keyboard. The irony in this case being that her music can kill surrounding animal and plant life at 100 paces.

All celebrity-bashing aside, there are only a couple of reasons why people care about the seal hunt.

First and foremost, seals are so cute they're basically children's toys with intestines. The acceptability of animal slaughter is based entirely on how adorable a species is. That's why you never see a supermodel on the ice floes promoting the Save the Flounder foundation.

The second reason is that seals are killed for one brief period each year, which by definition makes it news. No media outlet covers the bloody slaughter of cows, chicken and sheep because it's 365, 24-7, and budgets these days don't allow that kind of in-depth reporting.

I feel particularly bad for the cow. It's dopey-looking *and* is killed by the tens of millions. That's why many celebrities have posed for those Got Milk? ads. Think about that. Famous people pose with *the food made for the cows' children* smeared on their face, all with a big smile. Barbarians.

If you're a vegetarian, cool, add the seal hunt to the list of things that offend your sensibilities. But if you like steak, chicken or lobster, then you're a hypocrite, and possibly a big, fat one.

I just looked it up, and Ke$ha is a vegetarian, so I guess she's off the hook. The seal hunt is a heated discussion, but I'm always up for differing, honestly held opinions.

I call a truce, Ke$ha. If we're ever in Newfoundland at the same time, let's go clubbing.

Pamela Anderson doesn't wear fur. She doesn't wear much of anything, actually.
RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hotdog diplomacy

GETTY IMAGES

Home-court advantage

U.S. and U.K. bond over hotdogs

DAYTON, OHIO. U.S. President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron take a break with hotdogs at a college basketball game.

Cameron and wife, Samantha, are on a three-day visit to the United States. A "sports-fan-in-chief," Obama has his own basketball court in the White House premises.

MWN

Shooter

"It's fast, it's pretty fast and furious. It's hard to follow sometimes exactly who's done what wrong."

David Cameron
On the basketball game he attended.

Point guard

"David Cameron is going to teach me the rules of cricket."

Barack Obama
After Cameron admitted Obama had to explain the rules of basketball.

Three-pointer

Their wives promote health

HEALTH. While the president and prime minister were busy scarfing down unhealthy food, their respective wives — Michelle Obama and Samantha Cameron — attended an Olympics-themed event in Washington, D.C., for kids to highlight the London 2012 Games and Mrs. Obama's anti-obesity campaign.

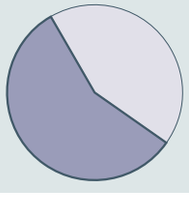
MWN

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Do introverts need to act like extroverts to get ahead in the workplace?

57% YES. IF YOU DON'T SPEAK UP YOU WON'T BE NOTICED



43% NO. GOOD WORK SPEAKS LOUDER THAN LOUD-MOUTHS

Twitter

@jcpoop:
What horrible news! Who would do a thing like this?! - Cat found frozen in ice block in Dawson Creek

@dougiel44:
Tired of this rain in Vancouver. That's why they call it RAINCOUVER

@aharperxoxo:
If I drove with my knees I would still drive better than most of Vancouver.

@NilaWho:
Is #Vancouver seriously the only place that's freezing cold in North America right now? Brrr

@KenHardie:
LRT is a very 'live' option and it's good to have Mayor Watts' endorsement. There are some big SkyTrain fans in Surrey!

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In trying times, it's important to be earnest with yourself

Despite all of the local drama, the show must go on. The Importance of Being Earnest opens tonight at the Arts Club

BACKSTAGE PASS
Graeme McRanor
vancouver@metronews.ca

Who knew the local arts landscape could be altered so dramatically in between weekly columns?

But there you go: the Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company is dead. Long live the Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company!

Yes, it's certainly an earnest time for the local arts scene.

But while that drama continues to unfold via protesting, petitioning and finger-pointing, a serious comedy is set to take centre stage at the Arts Club's Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage: The Importance of Being Earnest.

And the show, as they say, must go on.

But what can one say about Oscar Wilde that he hasn't already said via some pithy quote hung somewhere above every Irish bar in the world?

Truth is, Oscar Wilde isn't really known for his writing.

But he was a master of irony, which, by the way, was employed in the previous sentence.

And Earnest is loaded with it. Director David Mackay even calls the work "line for line, the funniest play written in the English language."

(This claim could not be confirmed by press time.)

"I believe part of the playing of the piece is to investigate playing the serious subject matters, such as the institution of marriage, friendships, child/parent relationships, with the utmost triviality, and the trivial subjects, like losing your cigarette case, choosing where to eat, and what to read for leisure, with paramount urgency," Mackay added.

"In other words: sweat the little stuff, and treat important matters in the most blasé manner. I think we always run the risk of taking life far too seriously. Thankfully, with this great comedic cast, we hope to take the piss out of that."

The Importance of Being Earnest opens tonight and runs until April 15.

Tickets are $29 - $65.

You can visit artsclub.com for more information on the show.

Events

What else is going on in the city?

- **PITBULL.** He is coming to Vancouver next week. He performs at Rogers Arena Monday night with special guests Flo Rida, featuring Tyler Mederios and Nayer. Tickets $44.50/$59.50, available at LiveNation.com.
- **CELTICFEST VANCOUVER.** The 8th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade kicks off at 11 a.m. Sunday. The parade begins at Howe and Drake streets and marches north on Howe to Georgia St., ending at Georgia and Granville.

The Importance of Being Earnest opens tonight. HANDOUT

2 SCENE

In brief

Hollywood tries to Bully AMA

More Hollywood heavyweights, including Johnny Depp, are joining the call for a lower rating on the teen-focused documentary Bully. Lee Hirsch's documentary on bullying in American schools has been rated R for language. Distributors appealed the decision, but it was upheld by the Motion Picture Association of America, which oversees movie ratings. In Canada, provinces which have already rated the documentary have given it a PG rating.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the Web

'American Idol' finalist among top 12 tweets that he's off the show

Co-writer/co-directors Mark Duplass, left, and Jay Duplass on the set of their film Jeff, Who Lives at Home, from Paramount Pictures and Indian Paintbrush. HANDOUT

Brothers with the pen and the lens

Q&A. Metro chats with one half of the creative team behind new film Jeff, Who Lives at Home

NED EHRBAR
MWN Hollywood

Filmmaker brothers Jay and Mark Duplass do everything together — write, direct, conduct interviews. So we took it as a rare treat when, due to a scheduling conflict, we got to interview Jay on his own for their new film, Jeff, Who Lives at Home.

But if you're looking for simmering sibling tensions, don't get your hopes up. The quieter Duplass Brother passed on the opportunity to badmouth Mark.

Where did the story for this film come from?
We actually wrote a short film in 2003. It wasn't titled anything, we just wrote a very short film about this character and it was about him in his basement apartment.

It was inspired by the character, someone who is totally obsessed with the concept of destiny, their place in the world, their connection to their destiny, signs leading from one place to the next — potentially smoking marijuana.

And the concept was that we would take this person and thrust them in the world. And actually make them interact with the real world and some point and hopefully it would be funny.

It is funny, but it's also a very realistic, dramatic film.
Now that we have made a few films, we're realizing that a lot of times what we do is we start in on the comedic side of things — and I think that's how we experience characters like Jeff in our own life.

You see a guy like Jeff at the supermarket, you're probably going to tap your spouse and giggle about the guy who is smelling the fruit a little too long.

But you get to know this person — they have dreams, they have hopes and they probably have a dark side. They probably have a really dark side if they are in that position where they're smelling fruit for too long, you know?

Where do you get the ideas for your films usually?
Mark and I have always sat in airports and in our apartments and told each other stories about these really embarrassing, cringe-worthy things that we've done in our relationships or that some friends of ours has done, and we'll be like, "Oh, that's awful."

It's very dramatic. And then we'll start giggling about it. And I now know that that's what we're doing in our movies. We're relating insanely specific and realistic things that happen between people and cringing about it and giggling about after. It's obvious now that that's what Mark and I have uniquely to offer the world, but that was such a painful, long-term process of finding that. We are terrified of looking out and looking at other filmmakers. We are completely focused on just staying within ourselves and staying within our peer group.

You've been brothers your whole lives, but when did you start creating together?
We've been creating together since Mark was born. We just grew up in a very creative family. We're just kind of from a middle-class New Orleans family, and my dad's a lawyer, my mom took care of us and now she does retail.

But when we were growing up, we baked, we made stained glass out of plastic Mardi Gras beads — and probably contaminated ourselves the whole way through. We did make movies with the giant VCR with the VTR attached, the separate unit. I would carry the camera and Mark would have to lug the VTR. We were in bands together.

So we've always made things and we've always functioned as a unit. You have to put credits up there, but Mark and I just make stuff.

Television. Judd's 'great European adventure'

IAN JOHNSTON
Scene@metronews.ca

Missing, which stars Ashley Judd, premieres Thursday on CTV. HANDOUT

Ashley Judd says the decision to return to TV with the spy drama Missing didn't come easily.

"There was a lot of hesitation. I was really torn right up until I decided to do it," says Judd, who is best known for such big screen movies as Kiss The Girls and Double Jeopardy.

"But part of what attracted me to this project was the premise — which was very simple and compelling. I'm a mother looking for her missing child."

Which is true. To a point. In Missing, Judd does indeed play Rebecca Winstone, a middle-aged widow who is horrified when her son goes missing while vacationing in Europe.

But when the authorities prove no help, Winstone heads to Europe, where she quickly reveals her past life as a CIA operative who can kick some serious butt when things turns deadly.

"I only get back involved with the CIA so I can find my son. But to my great dismay, I start to get pulled back into that old life."

Missing is also something of an international production with episodes set in such exotic locales like Rome, Paris, Dubrovnik, and Istanbul. The international cast includes Sean Bean, Keith Carradine, and Canada's Lothaire Bluteau .

"We didn't shoot in Burbank. There's very little green screen and minimal interiors," says Judd, who last graced the small screen in the early 1990s with Sisters.

"The whole point is that we're taking North Americans on this great European adventure and making TV for the world."

Judd says prepping for the show's energetic fight scenes involved little more than a few weeks of yoga.

"I have some background in it. And I had an amazing fight choreographer. For whatever reason, I'm good at it. I'm a natural. I like it," she laughs.

Besides acting, Judd has devoted a lot of her time in recent years to furthering her education. She recently completed a Masters in Public Administration at Harvard.

"It's really fun to go back as a grownup with life experience and to look through the course catalogue and think — what do I really want to learn and study?"

Missing premieres Thursday on CTV.

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Case closed ... Gillian Anderson admits to having lesbian affair

X-Files star Gillian Anderson confirms to Out magazine that she's no stranger to same-sex romance.

"I was in a relationship with a girl for a long time when I was in high school," the 43-year-old actress says, adding that she had additional flings with other women.

"You know, I'm old enough that I can talk about that." Anderson acknowledges that the dalliances might have had a bigger impact on her had they played a bigger role in her romantic life.

"If I had thought I was 100 per cent gay, would it have been a different experience for me?" she wonders.

"It's possible that my attitude around it came, on some level, from knowing that I still liked boys."

Gillian Anderson GETTY IMAGES

Lawrence tried to squash beef before it became an issue

Jennifer Lawrence isn't in a hurry to make any enemies in Hollywood, so when a tabloid story suggested she was feuding with Twilight star Kristen Stewart, the Hunger Games star did everything she could to quash it before it kicked off.

"There were all these like, fake quotes from me that were actually hilarious. Some of them were from my 'pal' and 'sources,'" Lawrence tells Access Hollywood.

"Then I was like, 'Oh my God. If she reads this, what if she thinks it's true?' I just shot her an email, and was like, 'Hey, can't wait to see more as this feud unfolds!'"

Stewart, no stranger to being tabloid fodder, took it in stride.

"She wrote me back," says Lawrence. "She was like, 'It's fine. Welcome to the world where everything you say gets turned into (something it's not).' So, she understood."

Jennifer Lawrence GETTY IMAGES

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

LiLo watch

Lohan could see a hit and run charge

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

It's been, what? A hot minute since Lindsay Lohan hasn't been in trouble with the law?

Her days-long winning streak is seemingly coming to an end after allegedly hitting a man with her brand new black Porsche and fleeing the scene in Hollywood late Tuesday night, according to TMZ.

Lohan was reportedly trying to execute a three-point turn and avoid paparazzi while leaving a nightclub when her car made contact with the manager of a nearby hookah lounge.

The manager, whose knee was supposedly grazed, initially said he was fine and didn't need medical attention, according to paparazzi on the scene. But when he was informed that Lohan was behind the wheel, he reportedly began complaining about being injured.

The man was taken to the emergency room and is said to be considering hiring a lawyer and pressing charges.

Police sources tell the website that they will open a hit-and-run investigation if the man decides to press charges.

Katy Perry ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Tell-all book could net Perry a multi-million dollar payday

Katy Perry has reportedly been flooded with offers to write a tell-all book about her divorce from Russell Brand, with one publisher offering $3.1 million for the story, according to the Sun.

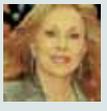
There's no word on whether she's considering the offer, but some speculate that her recent silence seems suspect.

"When everything was going well, Katy couldn't stop talking about him," a source notes.

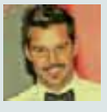
"Since the split, neither of them have said anything — keeping the price of a deal high."

Twitter

@MileyCyrus
Road trip with mommy :) country music blarin!!!! "It's mommmmmy time!"



@RealFayeDunaway
Being realistic is the most common path to mediocrity.



@ricky_martin
If you wake up without a sense of humor, go back to sleep and start your day again.

@GarryShandling
Forget about arguing when life begins. First, let's find 2 people who agree on when the sex actually starts.

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

3 LIFE

Style file

Five more ubiquitous ideas

1 Military

2 Asian-inspired prints

3 Men's wear for women

4 Exotic textures

5 Rich embellishments

On the Web

Publicist Kelly Cutrone now keeping it real on America's Next Top Model.

The fresh, the future and the forget it of fashion

Four weeks later. We attempt to make sense of a chaotic month of catwalks

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News in London

NOW

The decorated waist

Inhale and hold. The waist was a major focal point for the fall shows.

Burberry Prorsum highlighted it with little bows, Etro played it up with horsey harnesses and peplums, while Fendi and Acne cinched it with wide, sculpting belts. This is probably the easiest idea to adopt now. Simply grab a ribbon and tie it around any one of spring's trendy, lady-like dresses.

Clothes you can breathe in

Despite all the nipped and cinched waists we've seen all month, there was also an overall no-squeezing-required easiness to a lot of the clothes designers showed for fall.

Basically, you don't have to have the perfect body to pull them off.

Think relaxed and slouchy trousers (as seen at Balenciaga, Dries van Noten and Proenza Schouler, to name a few) and skirts that are forgivingly full and knee length (Marc Jacobs, Rodarte and Rochas are good examples).

So go ahead and eat the bun that came with that hamburger.

NEXT FALL

Dark and moody

The darker the colour, the more on-trend you'll be next fall. Burgundy, oxblood and purple were the colours of the season in New York and London showing up everywhere from Diane von Furstenberg to Jason Wu to Christopher Kane.

And black dominated Milan and Paris — just look at Gucci, Alberta Ferretti, Roberto Cavalli, Givenchy and Yves Saint Laurent for proof. You get extra points if you go dark from head to toe à la Rooney Mara, the most referenced girl of the month. But we suggest holding off until September before you start rocking this look. The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo goth thing can get a little hot and sweaty in spring.

Look-at-me outerwear

Technically, every autumn/winter show is an outerwear show. Coats and jackets are one of those items that women rarely skimp on, so designers like to give plenty to choose from here.

That said, the outerwear reached new heights when it comes to fabric innovation and embellishment — that's a good thing when you consider that the winter coat is the only thing a person really sees on the street in winter.

Our votes for season's best goes to Prada (decorative and ornamental), Alexander Wang (slick, sleek and urban) and Jil Sander (soft, chic and romantic).

NEVER

Anything that appears to swallow you whole

Outsize coats and dresses are having a moment again thanks to Marc Jacobs and Comme des Garçcons. But word to the wise: steer clear of any garment that looks like it could eat you for lunch or take up its own seat on the subway unless you are a fashionista with the most advanced degree.

Animals appearing 2D and 3D on clothing

Jeremy Scott attached a giant white unicorn to a black evening dress. And Jean-Charles de Castelbajac affixed life-size toucan heads to the shoulders of tweed suits. But unless your name is Lady Gaga, neither of these looks will go over well in the day-to-day.

Huge problems

"Steer clear of any garment that looks like it could eat you for lunch or take up its own seat on the subway unless you are a fashionista with the most advanced degree."

Kenya Hunt, Metro World News

Diane von Furstenberg / GETTY IMAGES

Jeremy Scott / GETTY IMAGES

Fendi / GETTY IMAGES

Prada / GETTY IMAGES

Music à la mode

If the clothes could sing

When soundtracks go right

The playlist for Raf Simons' last Jil Sander show included The Smashing Pumpkins Tonight, Mazzy Star's Fade Into You, and Sonic Youth's cover of Superstar. It was poignant and slightly melancholic, helping to get the audience appropriately choked up for Simons's final bow.

And when they go wrong

Sportmax showed a solid, polished collection. But that's not what everyone was talking about after the show. That would actually be the soundtrack, which was randomly filled with the raunchiest hip hop club bangers including The Ying Yang Twins's notoriously pervy Whisper Song.

The Azealia vs. Lana sing-off

It was the month of Azealia Banks's 212 and Lana del Rey's Video Games with their music popping up at Unique, Blugirl, Etro, Tracy Reese, the list goes on. That said, maybe it's time for these ladies to drop a new single?

Ceramics make a pretty lovely comeback

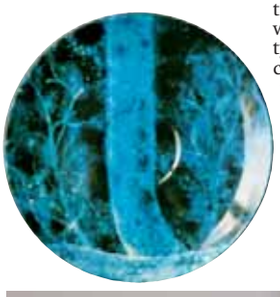
Pottery arts. One-of-a-kind ceramics can add colour and interest to your home – just don't bring them to a Greek wedding party

Ceramics are always a great supporting player on the home decor stage, but this season they're grabbing more of the spotlight.

Today's ceramists are exploring creative textures and finishes, and even the mass market is offering exciting new examples of the pottery arts. From velvety soft lacy tea light holders to chunky, colourful platters, there's something for everyone.

You can choose to feature pottery prominently or enlist it as punctuation to other colours and textures in your room.

A piece with lots of pattern punch can be a conversation starter, whether it was created half a world away by a village artisan or right in your own hometown.



A plate from Leah Piepgras's series shows a human esophagus. The collection depicts the journey of food through our bodies, from mouth to final destination, in hand dishes. LEAH PIEPGRAS/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Susan Dwyer, a sculpture major at an art school in Chicago, was inspired by the clean, minimal lines of the city's industrial landscape to create a cool series of vessels evoking factory buildings, water towers and silos. All hand-formed, each piece has a unique organic look that is at odds with, yet complementary to, the manufactured structure it represents.

Amy Adams, the brains behind Brooklyn-based Perch studio, has designed a clever series of stacking cups with stenciled rosettes, flowers, garlands or triangles. Available in black and white or turquoise and white, these have a nice folk-arty look and would be versatile little repositories for drinks, flowers or trinkets.

One of the masters of ceramic art, Jonathan Adler, showed his Carnaby collection at the recent New York International Gift Fair. Pieces include the Waves tray and Acid lamp, featuring groovy '70s-inspired graphics.

But Adler also has done a lovely group of nature-themed pottery pieces for which he threw the prototype and Peruvian artisans created the finished product. Motifs include leaves, seed pods and barnacles.

West Elm has Maria Moyer's pretty pierced tea light holders and stunning white orbed vases, which look as if they were born in some far-off galaxy. A percentage of sales of her pieces benefit Oceana, a non-profit marine conservation group. John Newdigate's fun blue-and-white-fish painted platters and fish-shaped serveware have a Japanese vibe.

Boston artist Leah Piepgras may have created the ultimate ceramic conversation piece, however. At the New York fair, her Consumption series of porcelain plates was shown at the Model Citizens booth. For a limited edition produced by Pickard China, Piepgras uses anatomical illustrations to draw each stage of the digestive tract from mouth (the tea cup) to, well, the end of the line for food we eat (the dessert plate).

A result of her keen interest in the body and brain, Piepgras says her "map" is "a reminder of the processes that are taking place within you while you're eating, promoting an exercise in mindfulness."

Rendered in a blue-black palette that's less realistic than flesh tones, the plates are beautifully odd. At $750 a set, this would perhaps be better suited to display than dinner. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pierced tea lights and vases by Maria Moyer. WEST ELM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Accent pieces

Ceramics can help tie a space together, picking up elements — a knitted motif or a colour, say — that appear in artwork, throw pillows or rugs elsewhere in the room.

- **Feeling non-committal?** Ceramics are easy to change out when you tire of them.

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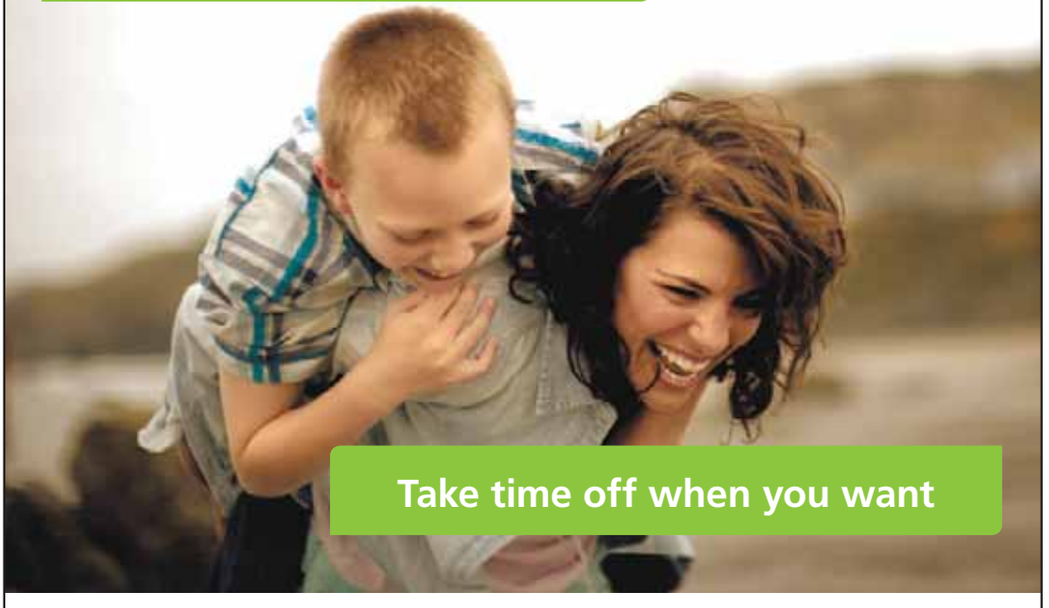

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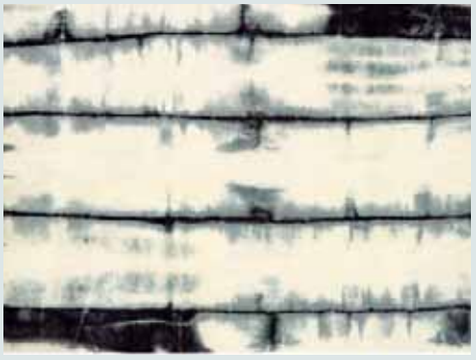
Tie dyed



Modern medallion

Thick and tufted

Exotic loveliness: Found Moroccan Boucherouite, $470/ four-by-seven feet, West Elm. WEST ELM

We've got your floors covered: Artful and affordable area rugs

Decor ideas. Rugs are all the rage and can make a room pop—why not unroll a little art under your feet?

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Area rugs not only add a decorative touch to a room but can also bring furniture together in open concept spaces, protect hardwood floors from pets and children, muffle noise and be soft underfoot for comfort.

The trend of the hand-spun, hand-dyed rug that celebrates the contemporary craftsman is all the rage in rugs; and not only in the upper price range where most of the big trends usually start.

Similar to how a special painting or sculpture will contribute to a room, a unique area rug will bring style and personality in a simple space.

Here's a look at some of the fantastic and affordable area rugs following the hand-made trends.

Tie-dye
Dyeing old carpets with saturated colour has been a popular way to renew the look of outdated rugs for a few years now. Black, white and grey neutrals are on trend for this season and CB2's hand tufted wool carpet goes through a 36-step process to achieve the groovy tie-dyed effect. Tie-Dye Rug, $299/five-by-eight feet, CB2 (see above).

Exotic finds
There's no need to travel halfway around the world to an exotic country in hopes of bringing back a souvenir rug. Known as 'rag-rugs' in Morocco, Boucherouite rugs are handcrafted from scraps of yarn for a one of a kind, exotic look and imported to North America. Hand woven from cotton and wool in classic Moroccan patterns. Found Moroccan Boucherouite Rug, $470/ four-by-seven feet, West Elm (see left).

Thick and tufted
Not since the all-wool Chinese tufted carpet have we seen artful rugs so thick and comfortable underfoot. Clean lines and simplicity makes the three-quarter-inch thick Chelsea Blue Hearts rug durable and elegant. All wool with shimmering viscose accents helps to give a luxe appeal while absorbing noise and sound in style. Blue Hearts Chelsea Rug, $299/five-by-eight feet, HomeSav.com (see above).

Modern medallion
It's easy to find a fussy Persian-style rug with the medallion pattern but usually they are outdated in their look and colour. Grey is the colour of the season with simple exotic henna medallion motifs on 100 per cent New Zealand wool gives a modern spirit to an old idea. Korhani Medallion Rug, $900/ five-by-eight feet, Sears (see above).

Damage control

Showing scum who's boss

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

Hi Charles,
I love your column. Do you have a solution to get rid of orange soap scum stains on the caulking of shower stalls? I've switched to liquid soap and have tried everything (including clear vinegar, baking soda paste, Tilex) along with scrubbing, but to no avail.Thanks, Peter

Dear Peter,

What kind of orange soap are you using that causes so much staining to the caulking in your shower?

That's the first thing that sounds scary to me!

Now you said you have tried a baking soda paste.

I want you to change your mixture and use about 3 parts baking soda to 1 part hydrogen peroxide, and leave this solution on the grout/caulking for at least one hour.

Then simply rinse away. This may just do the trick.

If it does not after everything you have tried, it may mean that your caulking (most likely a plastic base) has absorbed and taken on the colour of your soap.

This means you only have two options left:

1. Re-do the caulking in your shower.

2. Change soap.

Good Luck!

HAVE A QUESTION? EMAIL ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

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A dash of creativity results in delicious – and healthy – eats

Pistachio-Crusted Whitefish With Roasted Red Pepper Sauce.

This recipe serves four. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Fish. If you think healthy eating only consists of bland salads, think again. This recipe boasts a tasty pepper sauce

The soft meatiness of colourful pistachios contrasts with the crisp garlic crust of the fish. For this dish it is best to choose catfish, tilapia, haddock or cod fillets.

1 In a shallow dish, combine the bread crumbs, shelled and chopped pistachios, garlic and black pepper.

2 In another shallow dish, whisk together the egg white and mustard. Coat fish fillets with Dijon mustard mixture and coat in the bread crumb-pistachio mixture.

3 In a large ovenproof non-stick skillet, heat 10 ml (2 tsp) oil; cook the fish of your choice on medium-high heat for about 2 minutes. Turn it over and place in a 220 C (425 F) oven for about 8 minutes or until the fish flakes when it is tested with a fork.

4 Meanwhile, in a small non-stick skillet or saucepan, heat 5 ml (1 tsp) oil over medium heat and cook finely chopped onion and parsley for about 5 minutes or until softened.

5 Add roasted red peppers, chicken broth and honey and bring to a simmer. Simmer everything for about 2 minutes or until some of the broth has evaporated. Serve this Red Pepper Sauce over fish fillets.

DEVELOPED BY EMILY RICHARDS FOR THE HEART AND STROKE FOUNDATION OF ONTARIO, HEARTANDSTROKE.CA/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ingredients

4 portions
Preparations: 15 minutes
Cooking time: 20 minutes

- 125 ml (1/2 cup) fresh whole-wheat bread crumbs
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) shelled pistachios, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) freshly ground black pepper
- 1 egg white
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) Dijon mustard
- 4 small white fish fillets (about 500 g/1 lb)
- 10 ml (2 tsp) canola oil

Chunky Roasted Red Pepper Sauce
- 5 ml (1 tsp) canola oil
- Half small onion, finely diced
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
- 1 jar (340 ml/12 oz) roasted red peppers, drained and diced
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) sodium reduced chicken broth
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) liquid honey

Book of the Week

Leslie Beck's Healthy Kitchen

Leslie Beck's Healthy Kitchen is a must-have staple, with 250 recipes and quick ways to help you eat the healthiest diet possible, including meal-planning tips, getting portion sizes right and cooking methods.

Enjoy Cranberry Apple Granola for breakfast, Lentil Salad with Citrus Yogurt Dressing for lunch, Cashew Mango Trail Mix for a snack, Easy Fish Tacos for dinner, and Blueberries Topped with Candied Almonds for dessert. On weekends, make Smoked Salmon and Dill Frittata or Banana Flax Pancakes to start your family's day. Beck's easy recipes are great for entertaining, too.

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EUROPEAN UNION

Strawberry Mini Muffins. Bite-sized morsels make a perfect light dessert

This recipe makes 24 muffins. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Bite into these mini muffins for a sweet treat with a cup of tea or tuck them into tote-along lunches.

Ingredients

- 325 ml (1 1/3 cups) diced fresh strawberries, divided
- 250 ml (1 cup) all-purpose flour
- 150 ml (2/3 cup) natural wheat bran
- 5 ml (1 tsp) baking powder
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) ground ginger
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) baking soda
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) soft non-hydrogenated margarine
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) packed brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 5 ml (1 tsp) vanilla
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) plain low-fat yogurt
- 6 small strawberries

1 In a small bowl and using a potato masher, mash 250 ml (1 cup) of the strawberries; set aside.

2 In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, wheat bran, baking powder, ginger and baking soda; set aside.

3 In a large bowl and using a wooden spoon, stir together margarine and sugar until combined. Stir in egg and vanilla. Stir in mashed strawberries. Gradually add flour mixture and stir until just combined. Stir in yogurt and remaining chopped strawberries until well distributed.

4 Divide batter among 24 lightly greased mini muffin cups. Top muffins with sliced strawberries.

5 Bake in a 190 C (375 F) oven for about 20 minutes or until tops of muffins spring back when lightly pressed.

DEVELOPED BY EMILY RICHARDS FOR THE HEART AND STROKE FOUNDATION OF ONTARIO, HEARTANDSTROKE.CA/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

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a bite of the past

Baseball

Encarnacion powers Jays over Yankees

Edwin Encarnacion hit two home runs for the Toronto Blue Jays in a 7-5 victory over the New York Yankees in spring training action on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Lions sign Johnson to 8-year deal

The Detroit Lions have signed Calvin Johnson to a new eight-year contract worth up to $132 million US, making him the highest-paid receiver in the NFL. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Calvin Johnson
GREGORY SHAMUS/GETTY IMAGES

NFL

Titans execs meet with Manning

A group of Tennessee Titans executives have returned to Nashville with Peyton Manning for a meeting with the free agent on the team's home turf. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

"I want to finish the season out, and I think we're going to hit our peak at the right time."

Dwight Howard, who had earlier asked to be traded by the Orlando

New-look Canucks fail to capitalize on great start

NHL. Vancouver earns early lead, but lets struggling Coyotes take over game in second period

Kevin Bieksa, left, and Marc-Andre Gragnani react after Gilbert Brule's goal for Phoenix at Rogers Arena on Wednesday. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Antoine Vermette scored a goal and added two assists as the Phoenix Coyotes held on for a 5-4 victory over the Vancouver Canucks on Wednesday night.

The Coyotes (35-25-11) posted just their second win in eight games after overcoming an early 2-0 deficit against a rejuvenated Canucks squad that featured several different forward and defence combinations. Vancouver (42-20-8) suffered its sixth loss in eight games.

Rostislav Klesla, Shane Doan, Oliver Ekman-Larson, and Gilbert Brule also scored for Phoenix. Meanwhile, Ray Whitney had three assists as the seventh-place Coyotes increased their lead to three points over the San Jose Sharks in the Western Conference standings.

Alex Burrows, Ryan Kesler, David Booth, and Dan Hamhuis, with his first goal in 35 games, scored for the Canucks, who came out strong, but fizzled late in the second period before attempting a rally late in the third.

The Canucks outshot the Coyotes 43-33. Vancouver went 2-for-3 on the power play while Phoenix was good on its two chances.

Before Wednesday, both clubs had gone five games without a power-play goal.

The score was tied 2-2 after the first period and Phoenix led 4-3 after the second.

Burrows made coach Alain Vigneault's decision to pair him with Jannik Hansen on the third line look smart right away. On the line's first shift of the game, Burrows put in Hansen's pass from behind the net at 2:18. The puck fluttered past Phoenix goaltender Mike Smith after Burrows failed to get good wood on it.

Kesler gave the Canucks a 2-0 lead seven minutes later as he wired in Henrik Sedin's cross-ice pass during a power play. The assist was Sedin's first point in nine games. The power-play goal was Vancouver's first since the last meeting with Phoenix on Feb. 28.

But Klesla pulled Phoenix within a goal at 11:22 before Doan drew the Coyotes even at 2-2 about five minutes later as he went wide around Roberto Luongo to spoil the Canucks' great start. THE CANADIAN PRESS

GMs ponder shift of power to Penguins

There were a few jealous glances cast toward Pittsburgh GM Ray Shero.

News of Sidney Crosby's impending return to the Penguins lineup left Shero's colleagues wondering how much tougher the path to the Stanley Cup has become as they gathered in Florida for the NHL's general managers' meetings in Boca Raton, Fla.

"With him back, it's certainly going to make it a lot more difficult," New York Rangers GM Glen Sather said Wednesday after the meetings wrapped up.

Crosby is scheduled to see his first action since Dec. 5 when Pittsburgh (42-21-5) visits the Rangers at Madison Square Garden on Thursday night. New York (44-18-7) is currently the top seed in the Eastern Conference, six points up on the Penguins.

However, Crosby is rejoining a Pittsburgh team that has won nine straight games and appears to be peaking just before the start of the playoffs. Adding the best player in hockey to that mix is a scary thing for opponents.

"It's not like they needed help," said Philadelphia Flyers GM Paul Holmgren.

Not only does his team face the Penguins three times before the end of the regular season, they are also possible first-round opponents.

"Obviously, Pittsburgh over the last couple of years have been a tremendous team," he said. "There was a period of time last year where they had Sidney and Evgeni (Malkin) out and they still continued to march along. They're certainly one of the top teams in the East."

Crosby's absence dates back to January 2011, when he sustained blows to the head in consecutive games and was diagnosed with a concussion. He returned to the Penguins lineup in November before suffering a setback in December that was linked to a soft-tissue neck issue.

While acknowledging that his team found it easier to face Pittsburgh without Crosby, New Jersey Devils GM Lou Lamoriello indicated that seeing No. 87 back will be a welcome sight.

"It's great that he's back," said Lamoriello. "He's certainly not only a great player, but he's a great personality in the game. He represents the game as well as anybody represents the game." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reaction

"I hope he doesn't play against us (in the playoffs).... He adds a great dimension to their hockey team."

Ottawa Senators GM Bryan Murray on the return of Sidney Crosby

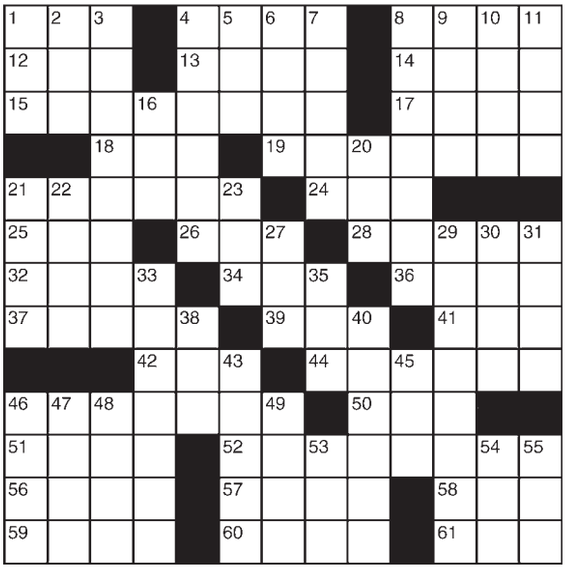
4 SPORTS

In brief

Coach of Knicks steps down

Mike D'Antoni resigned Wednesday as coach of the New York Knicks, whose brief resurgence in a wave of Linsanity quickly gave way to a late-season skid that puts them in danger of even making the NBA playoffs. Assistant coach Mike Woodson will serve as interim head coach. Never able to duplicate his success in Phoenix, D'Antoni was headed to his third losing season since signing a $24-million US, four-year contract in 2008 that made him one of the NBA's highest-paid coaches. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crossword



Across

1 Chic, to Austin Powers
4 Crooked
8 Implement
12 Tramcar contents
13 Decorative case
14 Unsightly
15 Relinquish the throne
17 Smile
18 Squid squirt
19 Big-time operator?
21 19-Across, e.g.
24 Chart format
25 "Eureka!"
26 Run-down horse
28 Financial advisor Suze
32 Teeny bit
34 Deviate off course
36 Antitoxins
37 Dickinson output
39 Space
41 Water barrier
42 Suitable
44 Literary comparison
46 Last major battle site of WWII
50 Lobbyists' org.
51 Actress Sorvino
52 Suggest
56 Greatly
57 Dazzle
58 Driving site
59 Zilch
60 — -a-ling
61 Right angle

Down

1 Bygone bird
2 Sphere
3 Commit (to)
4 Signal, as with a nod
5 Schedule abbr.
6 "Phooey!"
7 Traffic jam
8 They're in for the long haul
9 Shrek is one
10 Hodgepodge
11 Singer Loretta
16 Bankbook abbr.
20 Carnival site
21 Moist
22 Canton's place
23 Shaft of light
27 Choke
29 Treat an ailment
30 Asian sea, really a lake
31 Appellation
33 Spring (from)
35 Existed
38 Hot tub
40 Ornamental material
43 Checker move?
45 Buddy
46 Muscat's land
47 Narc's measure
48 Press
49 Con
53 Press for payment
54 — Aviv
55 Moray or congersoup

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Yesterday's answer

P	S	I		P	I	N	E		S	C	U	D		
R	I	D		R	O	U	X		P	I	L	E		
O	N	E		I	N	T	E	G	R	A	T	E		
P	S	A	L	M			C	O	Y					
			E	A	T	S		D	E	C	A	F		
I	R	R	I	T	A	T	E		R	O	L	L		
N	E	O		E	X	I	L	E		C	O	O		
N	A	I	L		I	N	U	N	D	A	T	E		
S	P	L	A	T		G	L	A	D					
			D	U	D			M	E	A	N	S		
I	M	M	I	G	R	A	T	E		F	I	E		
R	O	B	E		A	W	O	L		A	C	E		
E	T	A	S		M	E	N	S		R	E	D		

Sudoku

	5			3			6	
		2	1		5	3		
7								1
4		8				2		6
			9		4			
3		5				8		7
1								4
		3	6		8	1		
	7			9			2	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer

2	6	5	3	4	9	8	1	7
8	9	1	7	2	6	5	3	4
3	4	7	1	8	5	9	2	6
5	2	6	8	7	3	1	4	9
1	3	9	4	5	2	6	7	8
7	8	4	6	9	1	3	5	2
9	1	3	2	6	7	4	8	5
4	5	2	9	3	8	7	6	1
6	7	8	5	1	4	2	9	3

Send a kiss

- **Pie.** Thank you Pie, It's been awhile since I sent you some words to make you smile. You are always in my thoughts, so don't think that I forgot. I want you to know my love for you continues to grow. We've been together awhile, lets continue to make each other smile. I gave you my heart from the very start. A lot has changed, but our love still remains. See you tonight for pie! Love Muffinman
- **Rain Ramble.** why hello, sorry i've been tuned out of here lately ive been trying to stay away from the iternet ... the first rule of being stong = dont cry when ppl tease you..lol. i dont know how to make this all better so i guess ill shut up.From Denny
- **The Love of My Life.** I loved you so much when we were together. The day we broke up my heart shattered. It was a rough time getting it pieced together again. It's never fully gotten there. I love you and miss you always. One day maybe you'll come back.Broken hearted
- **JohnDoe.** I Love And Miss You SOO Much!!! i cant wait to see you <3 xoxo Your Lover Jane

Today 9°/5° Showers 70%
Friday 7°/3° Rain 80%
Know what the weather will be 14 days from now. Check the 14 day trend.
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Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. Don't expect rivals to play fairly but that's OK because you have no intention of playing fairly either!

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. Let others know what is on your mind. You should really be this direct more often.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. You are in an impulsive mood at the moment and common sense is unlikely to be a factor in your thinking. Don't gamble your rep.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. Put your own needs first today and ignore those who say you should be more careful. Be more adventurous — all the time!

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. It's not like you to have doubts but something is tormenting you more than it should. Focus on the positive.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. If you act on every piece of advice you get today, you won't get much done. You might as well ignore it.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. Assert yourself today and let colleagues and employers know you have what it takes to earn a promotion. Shine bright.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. You may have big plans but do they stand a realistic chance of success? That is the question.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. Today is decision day as far as a work-related matter is concerned. Make your choice.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. You will be in a fault-finding mood today. You just can't keep from pointing others' mistakes.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. Look for time-saving and energy-saving shortcuts today – there's plenty of them waiting to be used.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. You don't care how many egos might get bruised, you have things to say and they cannot wait any longer. SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"Hop on again, son. One more time down the hill."
Rick

BBC, JASON ROBERTS/DISCOVER CHANNEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Win!

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14kt white gold with 55 diamonds (2.75 cttw) tennis bracelet

Appraisal value: $6,200.00
J&M Regular Price $2,560.00

J&M Sale Price $1.644.00

10kt classic hand-carved cameo brooch

Appraisal value: $1,500.00
J&M Regular Price $749.00

J&M Sale Price $487.00

14kt yellow gold dangling earrings set with cubic zircons, 3.36 grams

J&M Regular Price $139.00

J&M Sale Price $90.00

18kt curb link chain with 1.00 carat round brilliant cut diamond

Appraisal value: $12,800.00
J&M Regular Price $7,279.00

J&M Sale Price $4,731.00

18kt white gold pendant with 61 diamonds (0.89 cttw)

Appraisal value: $2,100.00
J&M Regular Price $795.00

J&M Sale Price $517.00

18kt white gold bracelet, polished finishing, chess-style diamond cut pattern links, 18.21 grams

J&M Regular Price $1,490.00

J&M Sale Price $968.00

14kt gold bracelet with 36 diamonds (1.08 cttw)

Appraisal value: $6,200.00
J&M Regular Price $2,789.00

J&M Sale Price $1,812.00

10kt yellow gold 'wave'-style hoop earrings, 1.76 grams

J&M Regular Price $85.00

J&M Sale Price $55.00

Pair of vintage dress clips with 4.6 cttw baguette and round diamonds

Appraisal value: $17,800.00
J&M Regular Price $8,495.00

J&M Sale Price $6,496.00

14kt two-toned mens' wedding band, 7.3 grams

J&M Regular Price $473.00

J&M Sale Price $377.00

18kt white gold band, 3.8 grams

J&M Regular Price $311.00

J&M Sale Price $250.00

One of the largest selections of rings, earrings, chains and other jewellery, all at every day low prices, with 20% additional savings for a compounded saving!

14kt yellow gold mens' solid curb link 22" necklace, 23.71 grams

J&M Regular Price $1,534.00

J&M Sale Price $1,227.00

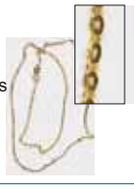
.950 platinum band, 4.69 grams

J&M Regular Price $565.00

J&M Sale Price $365.00

Dare to compare!

We checked out the competition at mall stores and our every day prices are *still* better than their sale prices!



1.36 gram chain purchased on sale December 30, 2011, for $125.00

J&M every-day price for the same item on that day was $60.93

You would have saved $64.07

1.26 gram chain purchased on sale January 4, 2012, for $128.00

J&M every-day price for the same item on that day $79.13

You would have saved $48.87

J&M Price Comparison

10kt yellow gold Singapore link 18" chain, 0.98 grams

J&M Regular Price $48.00

J&M Sale Price $37.80

Probably the largest jewellery close-out sale ever in the Lower Mainland!

Voted #1 Jewellery Store in the 2011 and 2012 *Readers Choice Awards,* **Stars of Vancouver !**

Consumer's Choice Award Winner *Best Local Jeweller* **for 10 Years in a Row!**

J&M Coin & Jewellery Ltd.

Vancouver Showroom 127 E. Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5T 1W1 604-876-7181
Metrotown Centre 348 - 4800 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC V5H 4J2 604-439-0753

Plenty of FREE PARKING underneath our Vancouver store, entrance off 8th Avenue